

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 14 September 1512, of John Newport, grandfather of Sir Richard Newport (d.1570), owner of a copy of Hall's *Chronicle* in the British Library containing annotations thought to have been made by Shakespeare. His wife Alice, mentioned in the will, was the daughter of Sir Thomas Swinnerton. They had four sons and two daughters. The eldest of them, his son and heir Thomas Newport, married Anne, the sister of Sir Robert Corbet of Morton Corbet in Shropshire, also mentioned in the will. Elizabeth Vernon, who married Henry Wriothesley, 3<sup>rd</sup> Earl of Southampton, to whom Shakespeare dedicated *Venus and Adonis* and *The Rape of Lucrece*, was the great-grand-niece of Sir Robert Corbet and his wife, Elizabeth Vernon. Thomas Newport's son, Sir Richard Newport (d.1570), was the owner of a copy of Hall's *Chronicle* in the British Library containing annotations thought to be by Shakespeare. Sir Richard Newport's sister Elizabeth married John Pakington, a first cousin of Humphrey Martyn, the addressee of the *Langham Letter* describing Leicester's entertainment of Queen Elizabeth at Kenilworth in the summer of 1575. For the will of Thomas Newport, see PROB 11/34, f. 112. For the will of Sir Robert Corbet, see PROB 11/17, ff. 214-15. The John Salter mentioned in the will would appear to be John Salter (d.1532) of Salters Hall in Newport, whose will (see PROB 11/24, f. 159) establishes that his daughter, Jane, married Thomas Chetwynd of Ingestre, after whose death in 1555 Jane Salter married, as her second husband, Sir William Sneyd (d.1571), the grandfather of Oxford's second wife, Elizabeth Trentham. Moreover Jane Salter's daughter by her first marriage, Mary Chetwynd, married Oxford's trustee Ralph Sneyd, the eldest son and heir of Sir William Sneyd (d.1571). Chancery proceedings (see C 1/888/2) also indicate that John Salter's widow, Elizabeth, married, as her second husband, William Yonge, who is likely related to the Giles Yonge who was a co-purchaser, together with Ralph Sneyd and Oxford's wife, Elizabeth Trentham, of King's Place in Hackney in 1597 (see C 66/1476).

LM: Testamentum Iohannis Newperd

In dei nomine Amen, quartodecimo die mensis Septembris Anno domini Millesimo Quingentesimo xijo, I, John Newport of High Erccall within the county of Salop, esquire, being in a whole mind, make my testament in this manner following:

First, I bequeath my soul to Almighty God & Our Blessed Lady and all the company of heaven, and my body to be buried within the chancel of the church of High Erccall;

Item, I will have 12 new tapers with 6 new torches to burn about my body at the day of my burying;

Item, I will have 6 black gowns with their hoods to 6 poor men that bear the same torches;

Item, I give and bequeath to my 3 younger sons, that is to say, John Newport, William Newport and Richard Newport, one annuity of £10 sterling, that is to wit, to every one of them 5 marks sterling yearly out of the lordship of High Ercall, to be received and paid to them yearly by th' hands of Thomas Newport, my son and heir, or his heirs or assigns during their lives at the feasts of Saint Michael the Archangel and the Annunciation of Our Lady in Lent by even portions, and after the decease of them or any of them, the portion of him or them so deceased to remain again to Thomas Newport, my son and heir, and his heirs forever;

Item, I bequeath to my two daughters, Jane and Eleanor, to their marriage 200 marks sterling, to be paid at such days according to the bargain betwixt the same Sir Robert Corbet and me made afore John Salter, learned(?), at the marriage of Thomas Newport, my son and heir;

Also I will that my wife, Alice Newport, and Thomas, my son, take and receive of the same Sir Robert Corbet another 100 marks sterling to content and pay my debts and bequests, and remnant to dispose for the health of my soul as they see best;

Item, I will that Alice, my wife, have to her proper use the chambers called the new chambers, and them to have and occupy at her pleasure and liberty during her life;

The residue of all my goods above not bequeathed, I give and bequeath and put into the disposition of Alice, my wife, and Thomas, my son, which I ordain and make my true executors to content my debts and to perform and fulfil this my last will according to right and conscience;

And further I ordain and make Sir Robert Corbet, knight, and my cousin Sir Thomas Leighton, knight, mine overseers of this my last will to be performed, and for the health of my soul;

These being witnesses, Gilbert Houghton, vicar of High Ercall, Sir Richard, celebrant parish priest there, Sir Ralph, clerk of the same priest, and other moe. Given the day and year abovesaid.

Probatum fuit suprascriptum testamentum coram domino Apud Lambeth tercio die mensis Iulij Anno domini Millesimo quingentesimo decimo quinto Iuramento Executorum in persona Willelmi Crowland procuratoris sui &c Ac approbatum et insinuatum Et comissa fuit administracio omnium et singulorum bonorum et debitorum dicti defuncti prefatis Executoribus in persona predicti Willelmi De bene et fideliter administrando eadem Ac de pleno et fideli Inventario omnium bonorum et debitorum huiusmodi conficiendo Et nobis citra festum sancti Michaelis Archangeli proximum futurum exhibendo Necnon de plano &c vero compoto calculo nobis aut Successoribus nostris in ea parte reddendo Ad sancta dei Euangelia Iuratis

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[=The above-written testament was proved before the Lord [+Archbishop?] at Lambeth on the third day of the month of July in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred fifteenth by the oath of the executors in the person of William Crowland, their proctor etc., and probated and registered, and administration was granted to the forenamed executors of all and singular the goods and debts of the said deceased in the person of the foresaid William, sworn on the Holy Gospels to well and faithfully administer the same, and to prepare a full and true inventory of all the goods and debts of the same, and to exhibit [+it] to us before the feast of Saint Michael the Archangel next to come, and also to render a plain etc. true reckoned account to us or our successors in that regard.]